



United States Military Academy Band
West Point, New York 10996



Jazz Knights

For over 30 years the United States Military Academy's Jazz Knights have brought musical excellence and variety to their audiences by presenting the best of big-band jazz and popular music. Members of the group are graduates of some of America's finest music schools. They are recruited and selected through a competitive audition process especially for service in the United States Military Academy Band at West Point. Alumni of the band have played with such jazz icons as Count Basie, Buddy Rich, Woody Herman, Maynard Ferguson, Ahmad Jamal, and the Glenn Miller Band.

The band's highlights over the years include playing with Benny Goodman at Lincoln Center in 1982, performing with the Duke Ellington Orchestra for the 200th Anniversary of the New York State Legislature, and twice appearing at the Hatch Shell for Boston's Fourth of July celebration. The Jazz Knights have also performed for festivals and music educators' conventions, including the 1996 International Association of Jazz Educators convention in Atlanta, the 1996 Western International Band Clinic in Seattle, the 1999 University of Northern Colorado Jazz Festival, and the 2003 International Society of Bassists' Convention. Notable guests who have performed with the Jazz Knights include James Williams, Byron Stripling, John Clayton, Eddie Daniels, and James Carter.

At West Point, the Jazz Knights provide music for numerous cadet social functions throughout the year. In combination with the Concert Band and Hellcats (the drum and bugle field music unit), they help fulfill official musical requirements of the academy and the Army, including military and patriotic ceremonies both at West Point and throughout the Northeast. The Jazz Knights also perform for the summer concert series at the Trophy Point Amphitheatre, and for the winter concert series at Eisenhower Hall. By recreating the sounds of the greatest big bands, as well as performing the innovative styles of today, they enjoy resounding approval from all who have the opportunity to hear them.